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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Geography Division, ORR  
Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No.: 64.1430

From: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 14 May 1956

1. Subject of Proposed Project: Nagadanskaya Oblast' -- A Geographic Survey
2. Statement of Problem: To survey the economic and physical geography of this economically and strategically significant region.

Copy of outline attached.

3. Requester: Self-initiated

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4. Responsible Analyst: [REDACTED] USSR Branch

5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired: None. Map already exists

6. Estimated Man Hours: 75 by analyst

7. Probable Completion Date: Indefinite

8. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR-G

9. Comments: A substantial amount of the research has already been completed -- see G/I-182 attached -- and only a small amount of additional work is required for publication as a useful regional survey.

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[REDACTED]  
Chief, Geography Division

Approved:

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(signed)

[REDACTED]  
Chief, Geographic Research

18 MAY 1956

Date

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/s/ [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director, ORR

26 JUN 1956

Date

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MAGADANSKAYA OBLAST' -- A GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY

I. Introduction

Magadanskaya Oblast's general location, physical surroundings, and importance as a source of valuable minerals.

II. Political - Administrative Organization

Evolution up to the formation of the Oblast' in December 1953 and subsequent developments.

III. Strategic Position

Magadanskaya Oblast's importance to the Soviets as an Arctic military base and restrictions imposed therein by the physical environment

IV. Economic Development

Exploitation of several valuable minerals in areas of difficult accessibility and arctic climatic conditions

- A. Magadan
- B. Kolyma mining district
- C. Northern areas